

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

~~Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 7, line 9, with the following rewritten paragraph:~~

B2
The spectra of the NMR of ^{27}Al of the silica-aluminas show two solid masses with separate peaks. Each solid mass can be decomposed into at least two radicals species. We observe extensive domination of the radicals species whose maxima resonate toward 10 ppm and which extends between 10 and 60 ppm. The position of the maxima suggests that these radicals species are essentially of Al_{VI} type (octahedral). In all of the spectra, we observe a second radical species type that resonates toward 80-110 ppm. These radicals species would correspond to Al_{IV} atoms (tetrahedral). For silica contents of this invention (between 10 and 60%), the tetrahedral Al_{IV} proportions are close and are established around 20 to 40% and preferably between 24 and 31%.
B3

~~Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 23, with the following rewritten paragraph:~~

The environment of the silicon of the silica-aluminas studied by the NMR of ^{29}Si show the chemical shifts of various silicon radicals species such as Q^4 (-105 ppm to 120 ppm), Q^3 (-90 ppm to -102 ppm) and Q^2 (-75 ppm to -93 ppm). The sites with a chemical shift at -102 ppm can be sites of Q^3 or Q^4 type; in this work we will call them sites Q^{3-4} . The silica-aluminas of the invention are composed of silicon of types Q^2 , Q^3 , Q^{3-4} and Q^4 . Many radicals species would be of type Q^2 , approximately on the order of 30 to 50%. The proportion of radicals species Q^3 is also significant, approximately on the order of 10 to 30%. The definitions of the sites are as follows:

Q^4 sites: Si linked to 4 Si (or Al)

Q^3 sites: Si linked to 3 Si (or Al) and 1 OH

Q^2 sites: Si linked to 2 Si (or Al) and 2 OH;
B3

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 20, line 22, with the following rewritten paragraph:

b4 The catalysts of this invention are preferably subjected to a sulfurization treatment that makes it possible to transform, at least in part, the metallic or oxide radicals species (elements of the catalyst) into sulfur before they are brought into contact with the feedstock to be treated. This treatment of activation by sulfurization is well known to one skilled in the art and can be carried out by any method that is already described in the literature.